

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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DRAFTED BY: S/NM:HRWELLMAN

APPROVED BY: S/NM:HRWELLMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 1976 ACTION DEPT INFO BANGKOK VIENTIANE
CHIANG MAI MARCH 28TH

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: BURMA MEDIA SPOKESMAN ON NARCOTICS TOPICS

REF: A) STATE 57955 (NOTAL); (B) RANGOON 760

1. PERSUANT REF A, WE HAVE DRAWN DITTERT'S ATTENTION TO
REMARKS MADE BY U ON PE CONCERNING BURMA'S FUTURE PLANS IN
NARCOTICS FIELD, INCLUDING PREEMPTIVE BUYING AND LICIT
EXPORTS (REF B). DITTERT HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

2. ON BASIS STATISTICS GUB HAS REPORTED TO INCB TO DATE,
BURMA HAS UTILIZED FOR DOMESTIC MEDICAL PURPOSES AN OLD
STOCKPILE OF IMPORTED OPIUM AND OPIUM OBTAINED FROM SEIZURES.
THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO REPORTED USAGE OF OPIUM PRODUCED
IN SHAN STATE OR ELSEWHERE IN BURMA. BOARD'S RECORDS SHOW
THAT IN RECENT YEARS BURMA HAS USED A MAXIMUM OF 13 TONS OF
OPIUM ANNUALLY FOR MANUFACTURE OF CODEINE, AND ITS STOCKS AT
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END OF 1972 STOOD AT 14 TONS. THEREFORE, A PROBLEM OF SUPPLY

ARISES SINCE STOCKS MUST BY NOW BE EXHAUSTED AND SEIZURES ARE PROBABLY INSUFFICIENT TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS.

3. HOWEVER, PROCEDURE WHICH BURMA REPORTEDLY PROPOSES TO ADOPT AS OUTLINED REF B IS ILLEGAL, EXCEPT AS IT RELATES TO SEIZED OPIUM USED EITHER FOR DOMESTIC MEDICAL PRUPOSES OR FOR EXPORT TO OTHER PARTIES TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION. CONVENTION REQUIRES THAT ANY OPIUM OTHER THAN SEIZED OPIUM, USED DOMESTICALLY OR FOR EXPORT MUST BE PRODUCED UNDER CONTROLS SPECIFIED IN THE TREATY. IT IS ILLEGAL FOR ANY COUNTRY ITSELF TO USE DOMESTICALLY OR TO EXPORT ANY OPIUM PRODUCED UNDER UNCONTROLLED CONDITIONS.

4. DITTERT NOTES HE APPRECIATES DELICATE POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL PROBLEM IN BURMA. EXPRESSES HOPE IF BURMESE PROPOSE MOVE IN DIRECTION MENTIONED BY PRESS SPOKESMAN IN INTERVIEW WITH VOA CORRESPONDENT, THAT GUB CAN BE PERSUADED TO APPROACH INCB INFORMALLY SO THAT BOARD CAN EXPLAIN LEGAL DIFFICULTIES. DALE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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